

The FCC has announced its plans to require all video relay operators to hold a certification from RID or NAD (a national certification vs a state certification). While I am nationally certified, I also work with many well qualified, excellent interpreters who are state certified. Many of these interpreters have worked for years, and have provided excellent service for the Deaf community. Some do not have the bachelor's degree requirement that would allow them to sit for the RID test. This does not diminish the quality of service that they provide.

I do understand that the FCC wants the highest quality interpreter working; I believe the FCC needs to reevaluate the impact they would create. Many of our Spanish/ASL interpreters provide a much requested service—but there is currently no national certification for this valuable service. If FCC persists, then these valued workers will not be allowed to work for video relay service providers. Now who will the customers get their interpretations from? No one! After the many years of recruiting and finding qualified Spanish/ASL interpreters, this would be such a disservice to our consumers.

FCC has a great goal, that is good—but I do believe that FCC is not thinking this through. I implore you to not change the current status and this will a great disservice to those we are currently serving. Don't set us back ten years and discriminate against those we have fought so hard to provide services for.

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